FIRST LADIES OF UNITED STATES DRAWER 21 MED 4-5

Medals and Medallions

First Ladies of the United States

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.05653

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Number 1613 | Fort Wayne, Indiana | July, 1972

Recent Library - Museum Acquisitions

Editor's Note: From time to time, it has been our practice to feature, in *Lincoln Lore*, Library-Museum acquisitions. The most recent bulletin devoted to this topic is Number 1585, March, 1970, which described thirteen items which have greatly enhanced the exhibit value of our Museum. The recently acquired items listed in this issue are typical accumulations, some of which are of historical significance, while others might be considered curios or noveltics which have considerable appeal to the casual visitor.

Our Fallen Heroes

The death of Abraham Lincoln in 1865 led Haasis & Lubrecht, Publishers, 108 Liberty Street, New York, New York, to create a colored lithographic poster which was titled "Our Fallen Heroes." Lincoln's portrait dominates the print, which over all measurements are 28" x 36". The name of the President with his birthdate and death date are given along with the statement: "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith."

This newly acquired lithograph contains the military portraits of the following "Fallen Heroes":

Col. E. E. Ellsworth
Brig.-Gen. E. D. Baker
Gen. Robert McCook
Brig.-Gen. O. M. Mitchel
Com. Andrew H. Foote, U.S.N.
Gen. John Sedgwick
Gen. Nath. Lyon
Gen. Joseph K. F. Mansfield
Gen. Philip Kearney
Gen. John F. Reynolds
Maj.-Gen. J. B. McPherson
Gen. James S. Wadsworth

In addition to the military heroes, a very quaint memorial scene is depicted at the bottom of the print titled "National Monument." The monument, which is purely an artist's conception of a military memorial, has inscribed on its stone base, "The Grateful Country In Memory Of Her Noble Sons, Who On Land & At Sea Have Fallen Martyrs For Liberty And Union. Peace Be With Them. Amen."

Listed at the top of the monument, surmounted by an eagle, are the battles and military campaigns in which the heroes fell.

The print is considered to be a rarity, although the New York publisher had agents in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Cincinnati.

Medallions

The twenty-four Lincoln medallions that are being currently issued by The Lincoln Mint (Division of Ero Industries, Inc.), Chicago, 1970, are being acquired monthly as they are struck. The dies are being made from twenty-four illustrations by Lloyd Ostendorf. The mint has published an attractive three volume, boxed album of which volume one is devoted to *Abraham Lincoln—An Autobiographical Narrative* compiled by Ralph G. Newman. The remaining two volumes are designed to hold the twenty-four medallions. The Lincoln Library-Museum is purchasing both the silver and bronze sets.

In 1968, the Lincoln Library-Museum acquired the sterling silver set of The Franklin Mint Treasury of Presidential Commemorative Medals (Washington to Johnson). With the election of Richard M. Nixon, the mint contributed, to all owners of the set, a medallion in identical form and size of the 37th President.

Now, being currently received, is the first edition, sterling silver proof set of *The First Ladies Of The United States.* The complete set will include forty separate medals, as more than one lady served some presidents as a White House hostess. Included with the medallions, is a handsome album with an attractive pamphlet by Gertrude Zeth Brooks entitled *First Ladies Of The White House.*

The Foundation is also a subscriber to the bronze set of Medallions, "The History of The Civil War," which is currently being produced by The Lincoln Mint. Seven of the forty medallions feature Abraham Lincoln.

$3.00 Gold Piece

In *Lincoln Lore*, Number 1585, March, 1970, a collection of the sixteen coins (minus one) minted during the Lincoln administration were illustrated in a lucite holder. The statement was made that: "The most expensive one of the lot is the $3.00 gold piece, which the Foundation has not yet acquired." Since that date, a $3.00 gold piece, 1862, has been acquired and the collection is complete.

Lincoln Coin—75 Pesetas

The only current Lincoln coin, besides the U. S. 1-cent, is a 75 pesetas silver piece issued by the Republic of Ecuatorial Guinea. The 36 mm piece, minted in 1970 in a limited quantity (probably in a United States mint), sells for $7.25 to collectors. It is beautifully packaged for display and preservation. Because of its premium value, it is doubtful if this attractive coin will ever appear as a medium of exchange. This coin is included in the Foundation's collection.

Note: Lincoln's endorsement is written on a letter from Governor Andrew G. Curtin forwarding a printed petition, which appeared to him "just and reasonable." The petition of twenty thousand working women in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is to be found in *The Collected Works Of Abraham Lincoln*, Roy P. Basler, Editor, Vol. VII, 1863-1864, page 467.

The Lady Would Be Appointed Chaplain

"This lady would be appointed Chaplain of the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, only that she is a woman. The President has not legally anything to do with such a question, but has no objection to her appointment."

To Edwin M. Stanton
November 10, 1864

Note: Lincoln gave this communication to Ella E. Gibson (Mrs. Ella E. G. Hobart), who was an ordained minister. After being elected Chaplain and the election confirmed by the Colonel, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton declined to recognize the mustering on account of her sex, not wishing to establish a precedent.

First Ladies Of The White House

A lithograph published in 1903 by Thomas H. Devereoux & Company, Chicago, U. S. A. is entitled "Ladies Of The White House." Twenty-two first ladies are depicted in the picture. All are wives of the Presidents except Martha Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's daughter), Harriet Lane (Buchanan's niece), Martha Patterson (Andrew Johnson's daughter) and Mary Arthur McElroy (Arthur's sister). Actually, there are twenty-eight first ladies (including wives and hostesses) up to the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

The artist who created this composite picture for some reason failed to include Elizabeth Monroe, Anna Harrison, Margaret Taylor and Jane Pierce. Rachel Jackson should not have been included in the group, as she died a few months before her husband's inauguration. Neither is Martha Patterson included in most compilations.

The Franklin Mint is currently minting commemorative silver medals of "The First Ladies Of The United States." They are featuring forty, first ladies (wives of Presidents) with the exception of: Martha Randolph (Jefferson's daughter), Emily Donelson (married Andrew Donelson, Jackson's ward), Sarah Jackson (married Jackson's adopted son), Angelica Van Buren (married Van Buren's son), Harriet Lane (Buchanan's niece), Mary McElroy (Arthur's sister) and Mary McKee (Harrison's daughter).

An attractive 41 page pamphlet by Gertrude Zeth Brooks entitled *First Ladies Of The White House* accompanies the forty medals which are being struck by the Franklin Mint. The biographical sketch of Mrs. Lincoln follows:

A Controversial Figure

"With her radiant prettiness and winsome smile, Mary Todd Lincoln had been accustomed to getting everything she wanted from her well-to-do parents. But during the Civil War, she not only fulfilled the social obligations imposed by her position as First Lady, but also provided the comforts of home for her husband, Abraham Lincoln.

"The times were exceedingly painful for her. Edward, the first of three Lincoln sons to die, had passed away in 1850. Her husband was Commander - in - Chief of the Union Army, while her three half-brothers and her brother-in-law died fighting for the Confederacy.

MARY LINCOLN
1861
1865
FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES
Mary Lincoln
1818–1882
A controversial figure, her health was shattered by the deaths of three sons and assassination of her husband.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Obverse and reverse of the commemorative silver medal of Mary Lincoln produced by The Franklin Mint, Franklin Center, Pennsylvania 19063. This is one of a series of forty medals of "The First Ladies Of The United States." Only one other medal in the Foundation's vast collection of Lincoln medallic art bears the likeness of Mary Todd Lincoln.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The first ladies are listed (back row left to right) as follows: Martha Washington, Martha Jefferson Randolph, Rachel Jackson, Angelica Van Buren, Lelitia Christian Tyler, Harriet Lane, Mary Todd Lincoln, Eliza McCardle Johnson, Martha Patterson, Julia Dent Grant, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mary Arthur McELroy. (Front Row) Abigail Adams, Louisa Catherine Adams, Sarah Childress Polk, Dorothy P. Madison, Abigail Fillmore, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Lucy Webb Hayes, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. Wm. McKinley.

Mary measured up to the pressures even though the strain eventually took its toll on her health.

"Though Mary soothed her husband during his term of office, she couldn't fully appraise the difficult political situations into which he had been thrust. She was at times unable to control her temper which terrorized the servants and estranged friends. She bought expensive clothing and jewlery. As a result of the death of her 11-year-old son, Willie, in 1862, Mary's life was even more tormented. The public chose her as a target upon which to vent its frustration with the Civil War, and she was accused of personal ambitions for power. After a third son, Tad, died of typhoid, Mary's last son, Robert, took legal measures to put her in a place of safety. She was pronounced insane by a jury after her son testified that she had not been normal since the assassination.

"In the custody of her sister, Mary's last years were spent in the house in Springfield, Illinois, where she and Abe had been married. On July 16, 1882, Mary Todd Lincoln died wearing her wedding ring engraved with the words: 'Love is Eternal.'"

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